

Pedersen Farms

08/17/00

RECEIVED  
AUG 23 2000  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Mr Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal- Fed Bay Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr Ritchie

I farm 2500 acres of Row crops in the central San Joaquin Valley. I would like to make two requests as well as comment on the program

1. Hold public hearings to explain what you will do and the effects of those actions on us. Many changes were made to the report, which the public needs to have an opportunity to understand and discuss. I fear that even after we review the document there will be a lot that we won't understand. Even though you may not believe you are obligated to tell us how the plan will effect us, it's the right thing to do.

2. Extend the period to look through the document and provide comments on the final EIS/EIR released July 21. As a farmer I can't adequately review the thousands of pages in the document in the time allowed.

Comments: I believe that in trying to protect the environment, the Cal-Fed plan actually will harm it instead. Taking thousands of acre's of land out of production will change the face of California agriculture. It will have a huge impact on the environment, not to mention local economies. When the land in private ownership stops providing food, a tax base and wildlife habitat, what happens to that land?

The farm environment where wildlife has gathered will be forever changed. Those crops won't be grown. Many species now occupy the acre's of farmland Cal-Fed proposes to take out of production. They are there because of habitat provided by farmers and ranchers.

In closing I hope Cal-Fed will use good judgment and respond to the concerns put forth.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

  
Craig Pedersen

Pedersen Farms

15478 Houston Ave

Lemoore, CA 93245

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